



The Sustainable Pioneer Newsletter

June/July 2006

Bike to Work Day – a Huge Success!

Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) hosts Bike to Work Day each year during Bike to Work month. On Wednesday June 28, there were breakfast stops set up all over Denver to promote biking as a viable alternative to commuting. This year, NREL had 55 participants registered. Additionally, the Laboratory assisted with one of the breakfast stops located just west of Building 6 in the Denver West Office Park.

Preliminary numbers from the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) for this year's event show that about 20,500 bicycle commuters participated, a 9.7 percent increase over last year's total! Other statistics from this year's event include:

- 691 companies participated in Bike to Work Day by offering information and assistance about the event at their workplaces.
- 114 breakfast stations around the region offered bicycle commuters energy-boosting snacks before heading into work.
- Today's average bicycle commute was 9.95 miles one-way.
- Participants reduced the vehicle miles traveled in the region today by a total of 132,600 miles

All Bike to Work Day registrants will be entered into a random prize drawing for memberships to the Colorado Athletic Club, gift certificates to Dick's Sporting Goods and much more. Those drawings will be held in the next several weeks.

Sustainable NREL and the Wellness Committee are proud to help promote this activity. We hope to see you all out there next year!

Thanks again to all of you who participated. Bike to Work Day promotes a healthy commuting alternative and benefits the rider and the community by reducing pollution and traffic congestion in the Denver region. DRCOG and NREL look forward to seeing you again next year!



SERF and S&TF Moves – Think Recycled!!

With the move to the S&TF or within the SERF, Sustainable NREL would like to encourage everyone to please recycle and reuse any new or "near new" office supplies such as file folders, stackables, three-ring binders, etc. Site Operations will make rolling containers for recycling available. You can contact Work Control to pick up your new or near new office supplies and they will take them to Building 16, 4th floor. There are also a wide variety of office supplies and equipment at this Reusable Office Supply Depot. Please check it out. Please take advantage of our Reusable Office Supply Depot on the fourth floor of Building 16. Feel free to take and use any office supplies you may need. We would also like to encourage everyone to drop off any new or "near new" office supplies



2006 White House Closing the Circle Award Honorable Mention

NREL received the Honorable Mention recognition for *Sustainable NREL: An Innovative Approach to Environmental Management Systems (EMS)*. This approach to environmental management systems integrates major sustainability goals and existing efforts at the Laboratory that support sustainability—such as environmentally sensitive purchasing, a recycling program, a pollution prevention program, the greening of NREL's electricity, and sustainable design on new buildings (S&TF LEED Gold Level design).

This acknowledgement of the Laboratory's leadership in sustainability is important in meeting our strategic goal of leadership in environmental management and sustainability. Please join me in congratulating the ESH&Q office as supported by Sustainable NREL on this outstanding honor.

Dan Arvizu

Q&A Forum

I am thinking of upgrading my home computer. Any suggestions about how to recycle my old computer?

Response: Dell currently offers consumers no-charge recycling of any brand of used computer or printer with the purchase of a new Dell computer or printer. This service includes home pick-up of the used computer at no charge.

Under its new policy, Dell will provide consumers no-charge recycling of any Dell-branded product, regardless of whether a replacement product is purchased. The company plans to launch the service in the U.S. by September, and globally by November. It is currently available in Europe. Dell has been focused on developing market-driven consumer recycling services for several years.

Quick Tip

Did you know that if you take your used printer ink cartridges to one of the three favorite office supply stores they will credit you in one way or another for your ink cartridge. Before your next home cartridge replacement, check with the stores closest to you...you may be surprised!

For more information, visit the [Web site](http://www.nrel.gov/sustainable_nrel/) (http://www.nrel.gov/sustainable_nrel/)